

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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4 ROBERT A. SLOVAK,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 GOLF COURSE VILLAS  
8 HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, et al.,

9 Defendants.

Case No. 3:13-CV-0569-MMD-CLB

**ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO SEAL**

[ECF No. 340 & 344]

10 Before the Court are two motions to seal. (ECF Nos. 340 & 344.) Plaintiff filed a  
11 motion to file his emergency motion to continue evidentiary hearing under seal. (ECF No.  
12 341.) Plaintiff's emergency motion to continue contains medical information and records  
13 of the Plaintiff, his counsel, and an expert witness. (ECF No. 341). Wells Fargo also filed  
14 a motion to seal its opposition to the emergency motion to continue evidentiary hearing,  
15 (ECF No. 345), due to its reference to the same medical information. (ECF No. 344.)

16 "The courts of this country recognize a general right to inspect and copy public  
17 records and documents, including judicial records and documents." *Courthouse News*  
18 *Serv. v. Planet*, 947 F.3d 581, 591 (9th Cir. 2020) (quoting *Courthouse News Serv. v.*  
19 *Brown*, 908 F.3d 1063, 1069 (7th Cir. 2018)). Certain documents are exceptions to this  
20 right and are generally kept secret for policy reasons, including grand jury transcripts and  
21 warrant materials in a pre-indictment investigation. *United States v. Bus. of Custer*  
22 *Battlefield Museum & Store Located at Interstate 90, Exit 514, S. of Billings, Mont.*, 658  
23 F.3d 1188, 1192 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d  
24 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006)).

25 If a party seeks to file a document under seal, there are two possible standards the  
26 party must address: the compelling reasons standard or the good cause standard. See  
27 *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1096-97 (9th Cir. 2016). The  
28 choice between the two standards depends on whether the documents proposed for

1 sealing accompany a motion that is “more than tangentially related” to the merits of the  
2 case. *Id.* at 1099. If it is more than tangentially related, the compelling reasons standard  
3 applies. If not, the good cause standard applies. *Ctr. for Auto Safety*, 809 F.3d at 1102.

4 Here, the parties seek to file documents under seal in connection with the  
5 emergency motion to continue evidentiary hearing, (ECF No. 341), which is not “more  
6 than tangentially related” to the merits of the case. In fact, it is not related to the merits of  
7 this case in any way. Therefore, the less exacting good cause standard applies.

8 Here, the referenced documents contain the sensitive health information of three  
9 individuals. (ECF No. 341 & 345.) Balancing the need for the public’s access to  
10 information related to the medical history, treatment, and condition of the three individuals  
11 mentioned in the emergency motion to continue evidentiary hearing against the need to  
12 maintain the confidentiality of the individuals medical information weighs in favor of  
13 sealing these documents. For good cause appearing, the motions to seal, (ECF Nos. 340  
14 & 344), are **GRANTED**.

15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16 **DATED:** August 19, 2021

17   
18 **UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**  
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